

## Commission News

www.mswcc.ms.gov

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MSWCC delegation attends  
NWC Leadership Seminar

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A delegation of leaders from the Commission spent four days in the nation's capitol to learn skills and gain information to become a better advocate in D.C. for the Watershed Program, as well as with other soil and water conservation efforts.

Executive Director Mark Gilbert, Deputy Administrator Brad Shedd and Bureau Director Nick Ivy represented the Commission, and attended discussions about how to maximize Congressional and Agency visits to DC; current topics such as the Farm Bill update, appropriations, the impact of November 2018 elections and issues of interest; visits with Ag committee and legislators; and a Beltway Watershed and Conservation tour.

The leadership seminar familiarized Gilbert, Shedd and Ivy with Congressional and Agency activities, and equipped them with information to assist in the soil and water education of leaders and decision-makers at the national level.

"This leadership activity, sponsored by the National Watershed Coalition, has provided the opportunity for agency staff representing states with the majority of flood protection projects in the nation to become more effective in advocacy for the small watershed protection and dam rehabilitation programs on the national level," Gilbert said. "These are the types of efforts that yield positive impacts on conservation and flood protection across the country."



## MSWCC on the Hill

Pictured at the Longworth building are MSWCC staff members, From left to right: Executive Director Mark Gilbert, Deputy Administrator Brad Shedd and Bureau Director Nick Ivy were in DC on Dec. 3-6, 2018, attending the NWC Leadership Seminar.

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## MSWCC's Fairchild uses Enviroscope for conservation education

Lance Fairchild, a natural resources specialist and field representative for MSWCC, uses an Enviroscope model to educate students in grades 3 and 7 about conservation at Manchester Academy in Yazoo City on Dec. 7, 2018.

PHOTO BY MAUREEN JOHNSON

## Wildlife Photographer Paul Brown at Holmes Co. annual meeting

Wildlife Photographer Paul Brown was the speaker at the Holmes County annual meeting on Nov. 27 at the multipurpose building in Lexington, MS.



## Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission

Mark E. Gilbert, CPM, Executive Director

Buddy Allen  
*Chairman*  
Tunica, MS

Pete Hunter  
*Vice Chairman*  
Clarksdale, MS

Herman Dungan Jr.  
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Jerry Smith  
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Lucedale, MS

Pat Ragsdale  
Walnut, MS

Charlie W. Morgan  
*State Forester*  
Jackson, MS

Andy Gipson  
*Commissioner of Agriculture*  
Jackson, MS

### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Dr. Gary Jackson  
*Director, MSU-ES*  
Mississippi State, MS

Dr. George Hopper  
*Director, M.A.F.E.S.*  
Mississippi State, MS

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## IN BRIEF

## SWCD, COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS

Dec. 10, 2018

**Oktibbeha County** SWCD Christmas meeting, Starkville. 662-320-4009; deb-orah.fitzgerald@ms.nacdnet.net.

**Jackson County** commissioners; 228-826-2482, lcolem2@gmail.com for information.

**Marshall County** commissioners, Holly Springs, 662-252-1286, marie.alderson@ms.nacdnet.net.

Dec. 11, 2018

**Perry County** commissioners; 601-964-3298, Theresa.hartfield.perry@gmail.com.

Dec. 13, 2018

**Leflore County** commissioners, 601-445-1199, wendy.lcounts@ms.nacdnet.net.

**Pike County** commissioners, McComb, 601-684-2584, Nancy.lazenby@ms.nacdnet.net.

Dec. 14, 2018

**Lafayette County** commissioners, Oxford, 662-234-8701, jim-miecarol.watts@ms.nacdnet.net.

## 2019 MACD ANNUAL MEETING

January 23, 24, 2019

Hilton, Jackson, Jackson MS

## Farm Bill headed to vote after changes

WASHINGTON, DC — On Monday evening Dec. 10, 2018, lawmakers unveiled the much-anticipated farm bill compromise, ending the months-long impasse over whether a critical piece of legislation that provides subsidies to farmers and helps needy Americans buy groceries could pass before the lame duck session concludes at the end of the year.

The agreement was reached after a proposal by House Republicans and President Trump to add stricter work requirements for those who receive food stamps was taken off the table. This piece of legislation will cost \$867 billion over 10 years, according to House committee staffers.

The bill must pass both the House and the Senate and be signed into law by the president, which could happen this week.

Although much of the bill mirrors current law, a major change is that industrial hemp will be legalized. This is a boon for the medicinal CBD-oil industry.

As for conservation, the bill severely cuts funding for one of three

major programs that pay farmers to use environmentally-friendly practices like cover crops and field rotation. A different program will get more money, and there will be more land that farmers are paid to fallow.

SOURCE: NPR NEWS



## MSWCC Soil Tunnel in Panola County

At right: MSWCC's Soil Tunnel was the featured attraction at Batesville Intermediate School in Panola County on Nov. 13-14. Students from grades 2 through 4 participated in a scavenger hunt, finding answers to the questions from information on the Soil Tunnel. MSWCC Field Rep Robin Tisdale and MSWCC Education Specialist Chelsey Gazaway were on site with the Soil Tunnel to educate the students about the World Beneath the Tree Roots.

## Reminder: Deadlines approaching for MACD Annual Meeting

With the deadline approaching to purchase drawdown tickets, submit auction items, and make reservations for the 2019 MACD Annual Meeting, MACD Secretary/Treasurer Hope Dailey offers these reminders:

**DRAWDOWN TICKETS** are still available. Please contact Hope Daley at 601-325-8599, hrgd1984@yahoo.com for tickets.

**MACD AUCTION ITEMS:** Send auction items *no later than December 21* in order to be included in the Auction Book. You can bring Let Hope Daley or your Field Rep know if you can't bring in the items and we'll arrange to pick

them up.

If you plan to bring the items with you to the meeting, *PLEASE* take a photo and send it to: Hope Daley, hrgd1984@yahoo.com, Kathy Dougan, MSWCC Public Relations Director, kdougan@mswcc.ms.gov; or your Field Rep, jwilson@mswcc.ms.gov; Middleton-lanc@4345@gmail.com; lsmith@mswcc.ms.gov; rtisdale@mswcc.ms.gov.; lfairchilds@mswcc.ms.gov; cgoode@mswcc.ms.gov, or lwilson@mswcc.ms.gov. It is important to have the items recorded and photos taken before we get to the hotel.

**DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS:.**

Please send photos of district activities and programs you would like included in the district highlights video presentation at the 2019 MACD Annual Meeting to Jeff Wilson jwilson@mswcc.ms.gov *no later than December 21*.

**MACD MEMORIAL TRIBUTE:** Please send your photos and information about commissioners or district employees who have passed away this year to Brad Shedd bshedd@mswcc.ms.gov *no later than December 21*. The individuals will be included in the memorial tribute at the annual meeting.